

had sold their property, and themselves as slaves, in order to obtain bread to preserve them from perishing. In a few years after Jacob had settled in Egypt, he fell sick, and seemed on the point of death. So they sent for Joseph, to come and see his father, before he died. Joseph took his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, with him, and went to take his last farewell of a dying parent. When Jacob saw him, he said, "Once I thought I should never see thy face any more, but behold God hath preserved my life till I have seen even thy children."

Joseph then brought his two sons near to his father, that he might lay his hands upon them, and bless them. And he put Manasseh at Jacob's right-hand, and Ephraim at his left-hand, because Manasseh was the eldest. But Jacob crossed his hands, and laid his right-hand upon Ephraim, and his left-hand upon Manasseh; and

prophefied, that the family of Ephraim should be greater, and more honourable than that of Manasseh.

After this, Jacob called all his sons together, and blessed them; and foretold, what should come to pass concerning their respective families. And then he died in peace, and went to heaven, where good men rest from all the evils which attend them in this mortal state.

When Jacob was dead, his sons, by the permission of Pharaoh, took chariots and horsemen, and carried his body into Canaan, his native land, and buried him there. This funeral was conducted with great magnificence, and an almost universal mourning took place for old Jacob. Thus good men are beloved in their lives, and regretted at death! Some time after this melancholy circumstance, Joseph's brethren began to be afraid, that now their father was